



Idaho Education Network
Program Resource Advisory Council (IPRAC)
July 13, 2010 Meeting Minutes
(Approved by Council August 10, 2010)

The July 13, 2010 meeting of the IEN Program Resource Advisory Council was held in the Lewis & Clark Conference Room of the Len B. Jordan Building, 650 West State Street, Boise, Idaho.

ATTENDANCE

Members/Alternate(s) Present:

Tom Luna (Chair), Superintendent of Public Instruction
Mike Gwartney (Vice Chair), Director and CIO, Dept. of Administration
John Miller, Dean of Off Campus Instruction, College of Southern Idaho
Jerry Reininger, Director of Information Systems, Meridian School District
Alicia Ritter, Ritter Consulting
Shelly Sayer, Premier Technology Inc.
Sen. John Goedde, Chairman of Senate Education Committee
Rep. Darrell Bolz, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee
Sen. Bert Brackett, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee
Sen. Shawn Keough, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee
Rep. Wendy Jaquet, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee

Alternate

Cheryl Charlton, Idaho Digital Learning Academy

Absent Members

Rep. Bob Nonini, Chairman of House of Representatives Education Committee
Donna Hutchison, CEO, Idaho Digital Learning Academy

Others Present:

Clint Berry, Qwest	Gayle Nelson, ENA (VTC)
Sally Brevick, Office of the CIO	Jerry Piper, Cambridge Telephone Co.
Bob Collie, ENA (VTC)	Debra Stephenson-Padilla, IEN
Brady Kraft, IEN	Joel Strickler, Qwest
Garry Lough, IEN	Mike Vance, ENA
Keith Murphy, Qwest	Greg Zickau, OCIO

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

MOTION: Sen. Goedde moved and Alicia Ritter seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 14, 2010 with one minor change; the motion passed unanimously.

QUARTERLY REPORT

BUDGET AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

Brady Kraft explained the budgets and expenditures as presented in the report.

Questions and Discussion

- With regard to the E-Rate discount, Mr Kraft explained that ENA incurs the obligation of \$700K and, in turn, invoices the IEN for only the State's portion (\$196K). ENA is then reimbursed by the Schools and Libraries Division for \$500K. The discount rate for FY2010 is 72%, for FY2011 it will be 74%.
- The budgeted amount could more accurately be referred to as the appropriated amount. \$3M is the amount budgeted for all the schools to be connected and the balance will be spent in FY2011.
- The FY2011 projections are available in the Business Plan <http://www.iem.idaho.gov/IPRAC.htm>.
- The \$843K spent on VTC equipment includes installation and a three year warranty.
- Regarding the RUS Grant, there about 100 locations that have been approved for a \$9,000 reimbursement each. This will be processed in FY2011. These reimbursements will be returned to the Operational Funds as they are received over the next 18 months.
- A request was made for an overall picture of the IEN budget with the various funding sources combined.
- In FY2010 four teachers received a stipend of \$1,500. Discussions continue regarding the amount of future stipends. The allocated funds for stipends (\$250K) will be spent by the Title IID Grant end date of September 30, 2011.

CHANGES TO THE BUSINESS PLAN

There have been no changes to the IEN Business Plan in this quarter. A link to the online Business Plan will be included in the Quarterly Report.

NEW CONNECTIONS

Mr Kraft provided an overview of the schools already connected and those scheduled for connection by the end of July.

Questions and Discussion

- Sen. Brackett raised a query from the previous meeting regarding the IEN local loop providers for Salmon and South Lemhi school. Brady Kraft confirmed that Custer is the provider for Salmon, following this meeting it was verified that Century Tel is the provider for South Lemhi.
- Rep. Jaquet queried the reasoning for using ILECs (Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers) rather than ISPs as the local loop providers. Mr Kraft reminded the Council that Qwest predominantly uses ILECS because they already have inter-connection agreements in place with Qwest as well as the necessary electronics and equipment. Most of the schools already connected, or about to be, are in Qwest and Verizon territory, with only a few exceptions.
- Twin Falls has since been added to the list of communities that will connect by Metro Ethernet.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Garry Lough provided an overview of the types of training offered, which school districts had completed training and the dates for upcoming sessions.

TESTIMONIALS

These testimonials have been shared previously with the Council but are included in the Quarterly Report for the benefit of the JFAC members.

The Council members agreed that the Quarterly Report should be formally approved prior to submitting to JFAC and the respective education committees.

MOTION: Dr. Miller moved and Rep. Bolz seconded a motion to approve the June 30, 2010 IEN Quarterly Report, with the addition of a consolidated budget (that combines the funding sources) and a link to the online IEN Business Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

A request will be submitted to the JFAC Chairs for a 5 day extension period to provide the requested changes, given the other commitments of staff at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS

Garry Lough highlighted the Total Instruction Alignment and GEAR IP College Access conferences which were centered around college access or content. Mr Lough also focused attention on the Payette River Regional Technical Academy – this is a new school that will be created within the Emmett school district, serving students in Garden Valley, Horseshoe Bend and Emmett by delivering PTE training across the IEN from the CWI.

CURRICULUM AVAILABLE

There has not been any change since the last meeting, given that schools are now on summer break. Mr Lough noted that a couple of classes would be added within the next month or so but this was still being coordinated.

Questions and Discussion

- Supt. Luna expressed concern that BSU, ISU and UI appeared to be not as engaged with the IEN in providing content as other higher education institutions. The discussion that followed raised several points:
 - there may not be a common vision about whether dual credit, especially synchronous classes, pays for itself;
 - limited faculty resources may play a role;
 - stewardship from the State Board of Education might be beneficial;
 - there might be a perception that education delivered over the internet is not of the same quality as face to face in a classroom, and yet most institutions offer online courses ;
 - some universities may be waiting to assess the success of the IEN;
 - the universities do not always want to use school teachers because they are perceived as not meeting a certain standard, this should change in time;
 - it is very challenging and time intensive to overcome the various school schedules.
- Rep. Jaquet queried whether the IDLA courses over the IEN would be tracked. Mr Lough noted that it is debatable what the IEN can take ownership of in that regard, given, for instance, that students take some IDLA classes at home. Sen. Goedde felt that every opportunity should be taken to increase awareness of course availability from the IDLA. Dr Charlton noted that the fiber connectivity had enhanced IDLA multi-media capability and therefore also the quality of their courses.
- Alicia Ritter commented on initiatives of the State Board of Education that are being undertaken, including an attempt to get 6 out of 10 adults in Idaho obtaining post-secondary education. The IEN is integral and therefore it is necessary to understand how the IEN can help the Board achieve its goals.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Jerry Reininger reported that the Technical Committee had met on June 2 and discussed the following:

- guidelines for recording classes: the hardware required; the potential legal issues about recording students; Brady Kraft will be providing guidelines for the recording of classes, but generally guidelines should be used for making up missed classes.
- the May 19 meeting with local ISPs was noted. [see report below]
- ENA had updated the committee on bandwidth rates, consumption and how individual schools are able to view their own bandwidth and consumption levels.
- General update from Brady regarding the schools that had been connected at that time.

The Technical Committee will be meeting again on August 4, 2010.

Questions and Discussion

- Brady Kraft advised the Council of the new IEN Program Specialist position that will shortly be filled. The successful candidate for this position will help manage all aspects of deployment of VTCs, acting as an interface with the vendor doing the installations and providing phone technical support for schools, higher education institutions, IEN staff and the legislature. They will also support the video training by testing connections and resolving any issues.

QWEST / ENA

Joel Strickler commented on the importance of connectivity to the more rural areas of the state and the long term benefit of the IEN infrastructure to communities, businesses and individuals who gain connectivity access that they either did not have previously or at a greatly reduced cost. Qwest continues to recognize cost savings and efficiencies in deploying connectivity, bearing in mind long term growth and sustainability of technology

Mike Vance reported that ENA is preparing for the new E-Rate cycle for 2011/2012. This is a significant effort running from October through February and ENA provides support to the schools to ensure a smooth application process. Additionally ENA provides support to schools for their individual applications (outside of the statewide consortium). ENA continues to add newly-connected VTC units to their monitoring software and circuits to their NOC (Network Operations Center) and assists schools that have had configuration issues in the past.

Following a query raised at the previous meeting, Gayle Nelson reported that, in the previous year, schools had applied for \$13.4M, this year the figure is \$15.3M. So far this year, \$4.4M has been approved and there have been no rejections, whereas last year \$1.6M was rejected. This does not include the IEN statewide application which is progressing well and, once approved, will provide an additional \$4M of funding to which school districts can potentially have access. ENA will continue to update the Council regarding applications and funding approval.

Questions and Discussion

- Rep Jaquet noted that Meridian School District had been receiving 44% E-Rate prior to the IEN and was now enjoying a 72% rate, and queried the figures for other districts. Ms Nelson will look into this and report back.
- The E-Rate increase from last year to this year is 2% which amounts to \$300K.
- Given that the census is expected to impact the free and reduced lunch figures, this could in turn affect the State's E-Rate dollars.

IEN LAWSUIT UPDATE

Director Gwartney reported that there had been no change since the last meeting, with the State still awaiting a decision on its Motion for Summary Judgment.

ISP MEETING REPORT

Greg Zickau reported on the ISP meetings held on May 19 and June 3 where State personnel met with four internet service providers at the former (Intermax, First Step, Microserve and J&R Electronics) and the same four plus an additional provider (Tek Hut) at the latter. The initial meeting covered the history of the IEN, the statute and associated responsibilities, the RFI and RFP processes and resulting contracts, together with the technical requirements for the IEN. A written synopsis of the first meeting was sent to IRPRAC members.

The Dept. of Administration then facilitated the second meeting between the ISPs and Qwest. Discussion at this time included the bureaucratic process and procedures involved in doing business with Qwest and steps to begin the process. However, Mr Zickau said it was his understanding that Qwest and ENA were now working together to consider requesting technical and financial proposals from interested companies, under the auspices of the contract amendments, in order to accelerate the process. Mr Zickau stressed that the decision regarding sub-vendors was not for the State to make but is a decision to be made by the respective companies. The Dept. of Administration would not press ISPs to participate, especially since some investment might be necessary to do business with Qwest, nor would Admin press Qwest or ENA to do business with any particular company.

Mr Zickau noted that the ISP for Wallace had gone bankrupt and given the school just two week's notice that they would be shutting down all services. The IEN was able to step in with Frontier (Verizon at that time), to

continue service to the school. These are the situations that the IEN seeks to avoid, so it is important that there be some form of vetting process.

Questions and Discussion

- At the time of this meeting, there are no minutes from the second meeting, however, at the request of members of the Council, a synopsis will be produced.
- To Mr Zickau's knowledge there had not at that time been any individual meetings between Qwest and the ISPs, though this may have been overcome by events. Mr Zickau said he believed that Qwest and ENA were in discussions with their attorneys and it was his belief that they would be actively soliciting proposals.
- Sen. Goedde queried whether it was a requirement for ISPs to be ILECS/CLECS in order to do business with Qwest. Joel Strickler explained that that had typically been part of the bureaucratic process for establishing corporate relationships. However, understanding that this could be timely and costly, Qwest, in their partnership with ENA, had opted for a different strategy where the contract could potentially be between the local provider and ENA, ENA having greater flexibility.
- Mr Zickau noted that Tek Hut had proactively begun to pursue CLEC status in order to place themselves in a better position to work with Qwest.
- Rep. Jaquet queried whether local ISPs might have to be involved with the FCC and PUC. Mr Zickau noted that if an ISP gains CLEC status then they would be registered with the FCC and Idaho PUC, and the hurdles (relating to working directly with Qwest) could be broached much faster.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Lough noted that North Idaho College has offered their VTC facilities to IPRAC members should they prefer not travel to Boise for every meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2010 at 1:00pm in the Barbara Morgan Conference Room of the LBJ Building, 650 West State Street.

Respectfully submitted,



Sally Brevick, Office of the CIO